



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

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TERRENCE M. REIDY
Secretary

SIEC Executive Management Committee (EMC)

Operations Room, Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA)
400 Worcester Road, Framingham, MA 01702
Wednesday, February 7, 2024, 1:30pm

MINUTES

Voting SIEC EMC members present: *Richard Fiske (SWIC-EOPSS), Alexander Rock (ASWIC-EOPSS, Policy & Programs Committee), Matt Barstow (MSP-RF Committee), David Spinosa (Northeast), Scott Wilder (UASI), Robert Garriepy (Western-Alt), Greg Lynskey (Central), Timothy Gover (Southeast)*

Others present: *Andrew Bagdonas (MEMA), Cory Swift (MCSA), Gary McCarraher (FirstNet), Anthony Fowler (FEMA Reg 1), John Robinson (FEMA Reg 1), Seth Peters (CMRPC), Norm Fournier (State 911), Lauren Sacks, (NERAC) Mike Saltzman (EOTSS), Jamie Scatina (Next-Gen 911), Alan Ryan (Boston OEM), Emily Wisdom (Boston OEM), Alexis C. (Guest)*

Richard Fiske chaired the meeting on behalf of Secretary Reidy and called the meeting to order at 1:33pm. Roll call was held.

1. Acceptance of Minutes/Notes

a) January 10, 2024, Minutes. Motion to approve by Matt Barstow, seconded by Scott Wilder, Motion carried.

b) PJ-ICIPs and PJ-ICPS Amendments:

- *HSGP 20-479 Chelsea marine unit mobile. Scott Wilder spoke on the subject. The proposal has been reviewed and meets all requirements for CoMIRS and State Interoperability. No questions from the committee. Motion to approve by Dave Spinosa, seconded by Greg Lynskey. Motion carried.*
- *HSGP 22-480 Everett Fire boat. Scott Wilder spoke on the subject. The proposal has been reviewed and meets all requirements for CoMIRS and State Interoperability. No questions from the committee. Motion to approve by Matt Barstow, seconded by Greg Lynskey. Motion carried.*

- *HSGP 22-481 UASI Trunk radio sites Revere & Medford. Scott Wilder spoke on the subject. Phase 2 of UASI trunked 800 MHz radio project, upgrading Revere (and other sites). Quite a list of things in this but reviewed and didn't see any red flags. Mr. Fiske stated he reviewed the submission in detail and does have some concerns and did more follow up. Stated that this appears to be part of a larger overall plan that is not detailed in the submitted ICIP. The ICIP, as submitted, does not adequately describe a current gap in interoperability that it purportedly aims to address. It states that it expands interoperability in the region but does not adequately state how. There is not adequate information concerning a governance or usage plan as to how these sites would be used, specifically about expanding interoperability capabilities, as part of the submission, only that they are using Boston frequencies and that this expands coverage of the Boston system. The Chair stated further regarding the proposed site in Revere, there is an existing trunked site at this location today, that was funded by UASI and approved by this committee and the SWIC as part of HSGP11-160 / FY-2011 on January 2, 2013. This site was constructed and connected as part of the existing statewide radio system, expanding coverage in the region, and further enhancing interoperability for all users. A similar site in Quincy was funded and approved with the same design and outcomes. Both have operated successfully in this way for over a decade, stating further that the Revere site part of this project proposes to decommission the existing site, disconnect it from the statewide radio system, build a new site at the same location using some of the same infrastructure from the original project, but connect it to the Boston system, not the statewide system, thereby expanding Boston's system coverage, but abandoning all the other users who remain on the state system who leverage that system and this site for operability, tactical, and interoperability use today. Stated this creates an interop barrier that does not exist today, rather than solve one. The Medford site is a new site, and it is assumed to have the same arrangement. Stated further there are two existing wide area interoperability systems in and beyond the region today that UASI agencies access and use for interoperability and tactical use; The statewide trunked 800 system, and the BAPERN UHF system, both of which are currently undergoing millions of dollars in upgrades using operational and supplemental grant funding. The Chair commended the city of Boston on the good work they've done on building a state-of-the-art radio system for their users, but that this committee is tasked with the further enhancement and improvement of interoperability for all public safety users statewide, and we've approved millions of dollars over the past several years toward that accomplishment, a great deal of which has been in the UASI region. Mr. Podsiadlo the Division Chief at EOPSS Office of Grants and research was unable to attend today's meeting but informed the Chair this morning that he also shares these concerns. Stated further, for the reasons above, while such a project certainly has merit like the ones we approved in 2013 for Revere and Quincy, as proposed and submitted, this project does not accomplish our mandated objective, and actually undoes some of the work and progress we've made over the years, and motioned to return this back to the region as submitted without prejudice, allowing the JPOCs to modify the project submission scope if they choose and resubmit a new one for consideration in the future that this committee, and the SWIC's office, can review for further consideration at that time. Seconded by Alex Rock. The Chair opened the floor for further discussion. No further comments or questions from the committee. Motion carried.*

- *HSGP 21-483 Fire District 7 Radio system upgrade. Greg Lynskey spoke on the subject. This equipment will replace the ageing equipment currently in place. No questions from the committee. Motion to approve by Scott Wilder, seconded by Matt Barstow, Greg Lynskey abstained. Motion carried.*
 - *HSGP 21-484 Amendment to the proposal. David Spinoso spoke on the subject of creating a programming initiative for authorized and certified COML personnel to offer programming and support with NERAC funded backfill and overtime. No questions from the Committee. Motion by Matt Barstow, Seconded by Greg Lynskey. Motion carried.*
- c) Discussion on any other current projects that have been reviewed previously and need action or have pending concerns- N/A.
- d) Discussion on any newly submitted projects that require distribution and review prior to action that were not anticipated or included here- N/A.

2. Reports

a. Standing Committees

- i. **Data Committee-** N/A
- ii. **RF Committee-** *Matt Barstow advised nothing to report from the committee. Matt Barstow will be stepping down from his current role as RF Committee Chairperson and anyone interested in taking on that role should contact him or Chair Fiske. Mr. Barstow stated he would remain until a suitable replacement can be found.*
- iii. **Policy / Programs-** *Alexander Rock addressed the committee. Policy and Programs are discussing next steps for enhanced requirements to multiband subscribers. Work is ongoing to the best practices policy and procedures for interoperability in the Commonwealth.*

b. Councils

- i. **UASI-Metro Boston** –*Nothing new to report.*
- ii. **Northeast-** *Nothing new to report.*
- iii. **Southeast-** *Nothing new to report.*
- iv. **Central-** *Nothing new to report.*
- v. **Western-** *Nothing new to report.*

c. State/Federal/Other Agencies

i. SWIC:

Richard Fiske addressed the committee.

- *Draft copy of the SCIP 2023 update is being circulated for review by stakeholder agencies.*
- *PSAP COOP plan has been released publicly.*
- *MIFOG 3-year TA upcoming. Working group emails forthcoming.*
- *TERT program has partnered with State 911 to offer a grant program for funding backfill and overtime. 10 new members have been added to the team, some members have fallen off.*
- *COMMEX / CISA TA is scheduled for the beginning of May. Alex Rock spoke to the subject. This exercise will be a great opportunity for COMU personnel to sign off on their position task books. We will be holding the COMMEX on May,1,2024 at MEMA facility 20 Forge Parkway in Franklin, MA with a repeat on May,2,2024 depending on participation and interest.*
- *Working on what's next for interoperability in the commonwealth moving forward.*

No other comments or questions from the committee.

ii. State 911 Report:

Norm Fournier addressed the committee.

- *State 911 has less than 6 months remaining on the 10 year Next-Gen 911 contract. The contract expires on August 3rd.*
- *911 has significant work ongoing at the data centers over the next 6 months. Replacing many big-ticket items including switches and routers.*

No other comments or questions from the committee.

iii. FIRSTNET:

Gary Mccarraher addressed the committee.

- *Evolution of full 5g with network growth and evolution to enhance both coverage and mission critical services.*
- *Upcoming coverage workshops for public safety. If any department has issues with FirstNet coverage, please come forward so these issues can be addressed.*
- *Cell booster Pro program ongoing.*
- *FirstNet board of directors currently has open positions.*
- *Technology summit on March 18th at Devens Commons. Eventbrite registration forthcoming.*
- *Five by Five broadband conference upcoming in Chicago on June 25th -June 27th. Registration available on FirstNet.Gov*
- *FirstNet Pre-event process for large events is available. The team will come out to address any broadband wireless service needs and help fill any coverage gap at these events.*

No other comments or questions from the committee.

iv. **Statewide Radio:**

Mike Saltzman addressed the committee.

- *CoMIRS continues to monitor the project. Phase 1A is expected to be completed in early 2025.*
- *Phases B, C, D have been combined and are projected to be completed in mid-2026.*
- *50 sites are coming online in Western Mass and 40+ Sites for Eastern Mass. All is moving along smoothly.*

No other comments or questions from the committee.

v. **System Owners:**

- *No system owners are present.*

vi. **Federal Partners:**

Anthony Fowler addressed the committee.

- *Joint COMMEX upcoming in May.*
- *FEMA and EOPSS will be kicking off planning talks for the upcoming 2026 FIFA World Cup.*

No other comments or questions from the committee.

3. Unfinished Business:

- a. Copper
- b. Non-HSGP grant-funded interoperability projects.
- c. Cybersecurity
- d. Continuing updates to interoperable best practices throughout the Commonwealth

4. Announcements:

None.

Next meeting is in March, TBD.

Motion to adjourn made at 2:06pm by Greg Lynskey. Seconded by Alex Rock. Carried and adjourned at 2:07pm.